THE STAR

RADIATING THE LIGHT OF TRUTH ON HANSEN'S DISEASE

A SMALL PATCH OF LOUISIANA SUGAR CANE GROWN ON THE HOSPITAL GROUNDS BY PATIENTS

Vol 7 No. 3 ★ November 1947

RADIATING THE LIGHT OF TRUTH ON HANSEN'S DISEASE.

Published monthly by patients of the United States Marine Hospital, National Leprosarium, Carville, Louisiana

'e views expressed in THE STAR are those of the patients of the U. S. Marine Hospital, Carville, Louisiana, and not cessarily those of the Medical Staff except in the case of direct quotation.

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"In order that leprosy may be dealt with successfully on a comprehensive scale and before any large proportion of early cases will come voluntarily for examination, there must be a change in the attitude of the public toward the disease. Any scheme for the control of leprosy will depend for its success on an educated public opinion."

Recommendation of World Conference on Leprosy, Cairo Egypt, March 1938.

Facts That You Should Know About Hansen's Disease

The medical world classes Hansen's disease as "feebly communicable." In the United States, endemic are foci limited to Louisiana, Texas and Florida. Outside of these states, Hansen's disease is so rarely communicated to contacts that from the public health standpoint it might be considered as practically a non-communicable disease. The Leprosarium at Carville was founded fifty-two years ago. To date not a single member of the medical or nursing staff has contracted the disease.

Doctors and nurses take very simple precautions, not comparable with those they would take in dealing with diphtheria, typhoid and other communicable diseases.

Visitors are admitted freely, nor are they required to take any special precautions.

Patients are permitted to visit their homes semi-annually for short periods.

FACTS, based on actual experience over a long period of years (the most valid scientific yardstick), furnish indubitable proof of the remoteness of the communicability of Hansen's disease.

Since Hansen's isolation of the bacillus, hundreds of attempts have been made to grow it in artificial media but to date none of these have successfully met the requirements for proof, and all attempted innoculations of animals have been unsuccessful to the same extent. No scientist in more than 145 recorded cases has been able to infect himself or other human volunteers by attempted innoculation of the germ.

* * * *

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE DISEASE IS THE BIG PROBLEM in Hansen's. Once that is determined, the 6,000 years old practice of imprisoning a person for life because he happens to be sick will be done away with.

This paper, and all outgoing mail, is sterilized before leaving the hospital. This is done only as a gesture of respect to the unconvinced and not because there is any scientific necessity for it.

Prints of pictures appearing in THE STAR may be purchased from J. P. Harris, Carville, Louisiana.

This activity is open to all interested patients. THE STAR in its entirety is hand-set by patients.

Subscribers, kindly notify us of change of addres. THE STAR cannot be forwarded.

AS I SEE IT

Gertrude C. Hornbostel

With this article I may be accused of hunting out of season, but there are times when GAME ruins your chances to survive, so that you may be forced to resort to remedial measures. I shall therefore refrain from sugar-coating my ammunition.

For years now, THE STAR has been trying to get rid of the word "leper" as applied to a victim of Hansen's disease. The word is obnoxious and offensive; hateful, evil and full of harm to the afflicted person. It makes human beings revert back to the early neolithic. The afflicted person becomes at once an object to be feared, and one whose prayers are more powerful than those of his persecutors. Of the last I have had ample evidence in my mail. It smacks somewhat of the practice of Kahuna among the Polynesians of the Pacific Islands, and the black cannibals of New Guinea; of the obeah of Africa and the British West Indies and Guiana with all the tabu that goes with it. Having lived among people who practiced this tabu, I cannot see any difference between that and the attitude of a large number of our so-called "civilized" Christian population in the United States in their treatment of persons afflicted with a disease that is not much different than any other germ disease except for its feeble communicability. We are as taboo as a black cannibal of New Guinea who has broken a tribal law. Webster's Dictionary says: "Taboo, tabu, tapu —sacred, under restriction, prohibited, set apart, sacred by religious custom, forbidden by tradition, social usage or other authority. A sacred interdiction commonly imposed by chiefs or priests, (which in our case happens to be the Public Health Service) and found among most races of primitive culture. Similar restriction imposed by social convention. To place under taboo, to debar from use, practice, or intercourse by authority of social or class convention."

I have never run into any difficulties in the forty-one years that I have spent among those people who practised these taboos in spite of the fact that they considered them even more powerful than either Government or Church. And now I have come here after many years of absence to run right into and become marked with the same kind of taboo in respect to "so-called leprosy" and find that the Public Health Service believes in abetting the public in such primitive customs and in upholding their taboo. Even President Truman of the United States says that "this fear of the disease cannot be legislated out of existence" and that "it can be dissipated only by knowledge of the facts of the disease."

When however, there are factions among our population who have a great deal of influence on thought and are constantly working to sidetrack independent thinking on the subject for selfish reasons through deliberate repetition of the word "leper", then it becomes time to think about legislation, for we cannot let selfishness, fear and primitive superstition and taboos oppress a small minority. That would be undemocratic and very un-American.

I am referring to certain religious workers, but not to any one Church in particular. It is a praiseworthy object to bring the solace of Christianity to the heathens and at the same time to heal their physical ills, but when the wherewithal for this good work is collected by stepping on the toes of their Christian brethren, whose ancestors were pillars of the Church and who themselves are members thereof, it becomes a sorry sight and rather disgusting. Perhaps "they know not what they do", at least some of them, but there are certainly some of the most influential who know perfectly well what they are doing. As an example there is the American Mission to Lepers, who have been asked by THE STAR since 1942 and even before to eliminate that odious word "leper" from the name of the organization. But the answer has always been, "we cannot do so at this time" or words to that effect. Why not? Because "the word 'leper' has the compassionate sanction of millions of Christians" according to their Board of Directors? Or isn't it rather because the word has become the equivalent of a well-known trade mark? "The Poor Leper" helps to attract the money whereby the good work can be continued, but is, by so doing, himself repelled.

Most of the good people who help to donate to this fine work know nothing about the incidence of the disease in the United States and those who do know, imagine that some of their donations will be used in Carville.

One good man who belongs to this organization said, "In order to get public help, one must use the designation 'leprosy' to arouse intelligent sympathy." Sympathy, yes. But it is not intelligent from a man who is in a position to know that it was wrongly translated from the Hebrew in the first place and that the leprosy of the Bible is not the same disease which causes the manifestations of

Hansen's disease.

When, way back in 1942, the editor of THE STAR protested to this organization about the repeated use of the word "leper" in an article, after having requested them to replace it with "a victim of Hansen's disease" and the removal of the word from the name of their organization, he received, what seems to me to be a very hypocritical answer, full of subterfuges and evasions. The last paragraph reads: "If you still doubt that Dr. Kellersberger and I completely agree with you on the extreme undesirability of this word, please let this letter erase that doubt. Thanks to your frankness in the matter, we are now moving decisively toward a change of policy, even to the point of considering a change in our organizational name. We ask you on your side, to take into reasonable consideration the social, psychological and language difficulties involved. We perhaps feel that they are greater than you do but we are definitely set to work our way through them." This is 1947 —and they are still working their way through them.

In a recent memorandum from Dr. Kellersberger, General Secretary of the organization, we find the following: "Regarding the letter head of this mission, I am sure you understand what a difficult subject it is—we are working on it. I can't get it changed now. My GREAT purpose is to CHANGE the attitude of all people toward those who have leprosy."

How can he expect to change it if they do not change their own attitude first. The good example of the organization would go a long way toward a change of attitude in the public. By advertising the obnoxious word on their letter heads and in newsprint, they are accomplishing the exact opposite of what their words imply. "Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little foliy him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour." Ecclesiastes 9:10.

Of course, I realize that what they are trying to accomplish is a praiseworthy object, which I want to see expanding and for which I am 100%, but it must not be done by trampling their own underfoot. Perhaps they cannot see the ocean for the water in it, but "The Lord shall judge his people." Hebrews 10:30.

There is the story of Father Damien, the details of which are too well known in connection with that odious word to repeat them here. I could cite many more; my own, as told by sensation-seeking sobsisters included and I don't, personally, care what they want to call me, but when I consider the stories of persecution which I have heard since my arrival in Carville from the other patients; of the suffering which their families have to go through because of the stigma connected with being such a patient; of ostracism; of fear and superstition which others undergo only through use of that one evil word, it gives me a feeling of inadequacy to try putting into words our feelings about those people who so nonchalantly ruin the lives of their fellowmen through use of a word which brings back the primitive fear of the ancient Hebraic taboos of 6000 years ago.

The patients of this hospital feel that this great wrong should be righted. Because the attitude of the Public Health Service on this subject is still dependent on an enlightened public opinion before it will be allowed to take the initiative in making any changes, it has been necessary for the patients themselves to do all the spade work to provide that enlightenment.

The connection between the present-day outlook on Hansen's disease and its beginning in the ancient taboos of the Hebrews is well understood by many eminent medical men, but it is given to only a very few to be in a position to do something about dissociating the disease as such from its religious entanglements in the minds of theological students. The following excerpt is from a letter of Doctor Frank C. Combes, Professor of Dermatology, New York University, College of Medicine. Director of Dermatology, Bellevue Hospital: "Leprosy is so closely allied to Christianity and Judaism that any attempt to consider it purely as a scientific and sociologic problem will be met with opposition and interpreted by many as an attempt to discredit much of Biblical authority.

"One of my many commitments is that of faculty member of the National Bible Institute. Here I do my best to teach the many hundreds of embryo missionaries about Hansen's disease. It is surprising how many think that one of their missions in life is to 'care for the lepers'; not in the sense that they would care for an individual with syphilis or tuberculosis. No,—leprosy is a thing apart from a purely medical problem. The 'victim' is to be pitied and prayed for. It is expected that he will be shunned by his associates, so that the missionary must be unduly solicitous for his welfare and happiness."

"But there is an optimistic aspect to this perplexing problem and that is the prominence given recently to its treatment, especially the benefits derived from promin."

"The leprosarium in continental United States should be abolished entirely. There is no logical reason for its existence except as a research center.

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LET'S LEARN A NEW WORD

Frank O. Colby

Author of a nationally syndicated newspaper feature dedicated to BETTER SPEECH, the books, YOUR SPEECH AND HOW TO IMPROVE IT, THE PRACTICAL HANDBOOK OF BETTER ENGLISH and conductor of the transcribed radio program, FRANK COLBY AND HIS WORDS.

***NOTE:** This article, reprinted by permission of the author, combines two of Mr. Colby's columns, one of which appeared in August and a follow-up to be published in November in newspapers all over the country by the Bell Syndicate.*

* * *

In the United States a movement is under way which my column is glad to champion —that of banishing the terror-ridden words "leprosy" and "leper" from the language.

For centuries so much dread and superstitious aversion have been associated with the disease that it has been magnified out of all proportion. Patients since ancient days have been treated as pestilential outcasts, instead of people who have a rare and not- very- infectious disease.

For this reason, the Leonard Wood Memorial, the United States Public Health Service, and the Carville, Louisiana, hospital are urging that the public adopt the medical term "Hansen's disease," after Dr. Gerhard Hansen, Norwegian physician (1841-1912) who, in 1879, discovered the bacillus which causes the disorder.

This strikes me as a very sensible and humane way to overcome the unreasoning horror with which sufferers of the disease have always been singled out As a matter of fact, there are scores of serious diseases far more prevalent and transmissible than Hansen's. For example, who would regard with revulsion and dread the unfortunate victim of infantile paralysis? Or of influenza? Or of tuberculosis?

Until recent years chaulmoogra oil (chawl-Moogruh) was used principally in treating Hansen's disease. According to Elsie McCormick in a recent article in *COLLIER'S*: "After years of trial, the staff doctors at Carville had concluded that chaulmoogra oil was just about worthless."

In 1940, Dr. Louis Bambas, of Parke, Davis and Company, created a new drug—Promin (PROEmin) —for which high hopes are being held by both doctors and patients, although it may be several years before it is pronounced a cure instead of a treatment.

Dr. H. A. Lichtwardt, Medical Director of the Women's Hospital, Detroit, in a recent article "Why Not Change the Name?" states: "Leprosy is the least infectious of all diseases and there is no reason why the ignorant superstitions of the dark ages should be continued today when society would still have all sufferers live 'without the camp', and ring their bells, crying 'Unclean! Unclean!' as they approach other individuals.

The unfortunate sufferer (the so-called 'leper' is not as unclean as the person who has a common cold) has been driven out of his home and community, and often locked up like a wild animal lest he 'contaminate' some other member of society — often bringing shame to his entire family as well as unjust disgrace and unfair treatment to himself."

Dr. Lichtwardt recommends "Hansenosis" as the logical name for the disease. Personally, I think that Hansenosis is a far happier choice than Hansen's disease, for Hansenosis has the virtue of eliminating the disturbing word *disease* altogether.

Therefore, I am glad to pass the new name on to my readers — Hansenosis, pronounced: *HAN-sen-OH'siss*. Scratch out "leprosy" in your dictionary, and write in this kinder, more hopeful word— Hansenosis.

Our good doctor says, "A more difficult task is to find a term to replace the odious epithet 'leper' — an unnecessary and unjust name."

Since my business is words, I have suggested the term "Hansenotic" as adjective and noun, pronounced: *HAN-sen-OTT'ik*. Hansenotic is a quite proper coinage, for it follows the custom of making -otic words from -osis words, as neurotic from neurosis, psychotic from psychosis, hypnotic from hypnosis, etc.

Thus we may speak of a person with Hansenosis as a Hansenotic patient in a Hansenotic hospital devoted exclusively to the treatment of Hansenotics.

All of us can add immeasurably to the morale and self respect of the patients by not giving them the ancient and ominous name which they hitherto have borne. Let us consider them in the same compassionate spirit with which we regard all other persons who are ill.

Place THE STAR in your Public Library

Vol. 7 EDITORIAL No. 3

WHAT'S IN A NAME

If Shakespeare were living today and if by a twist of fate he were a patient at Carville, we believe he would admit "leprosy" to be the classic exception to his immortal line, "That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet," for no one knows how it feels to be called a "leper" except those to whom this odious name is applied. To be sure, some medical men have long recognized that the words "leper" and "leprosy" are objectionable but have never got around to making any official changes. Much has been said in THE STAR about the use of "that odious word" and much more will be said before we attain our goal. Mr. Colby's columns on this subject are timely because social advances have lagged far behind recent scientific progress His columns give us the opportunity to review some of the most important past efforts.

We are thoroughly in accord with Dr. Lichtwardt's suggestion of "Hansenosis" to replace the word "leprosy". This is not the first time "Hansenosis" has been suggested. In 1932, the late Dr. John Ritter, Rush Medical College, made the same suggestion. Dr. Ritter pointed out that "Hansenosis" should be scientifically acceptable. Hansen's bacillus, the causative agent, and "osis", a suffix meaning a morbid condition — like the word tuberculosis. Hence, Hansenosis would express the thought that in some tissues of the body the presence of the Hansen bacillus has brought about a morbid condition— and that is what so called leprosy is.

But the influential American Medical Association is opposed to eponyms. In 1942, Dr. Morris Fishbein, editor of THE JOURNAL of the A.M.A., wrote, 'The National Conference on Medical Nomenclature and the Standard Nomenclature of Disease are definitely opposed to the principle of using eponyms for describing diseases when other suitable terms can be employed". Dr. Edwin P. Jordan of the A.M.A. stated, "Eponyms, which are the bane of medical students and record librarians, have been practically eliminated. Suffice it that the compilers of Nomenclature have felt that it was unnecessary to allow physicians to confound their students and colleagues by calling some well-known disease after a physician whose name was once associated with it." But what about Bright's disease, Addison's disease, Buerger's disease and scores of others in general use which we could cite? Even the word syphilis itself could be considered an eponym as it is derived from the name of a shepherd in the Latin poem Fracastoro (1530).

Dr. F.C. Lendrum of the University of Illinois, must have been cognizant of the A.M.A.'s objection to eponyms when he said, "Some purists have objected that it is undesirable to have diseases named after the men who first described or discovered their cause. Words, however, are labels. The avoidance of tragic misunderstanding is far more important than the adherence to artificial standards of linguistic purism." Dr. Lendrum added, "The movement to escape from the completely unjustified revulsion which the name of leprosy excites is prompted by considerations of justice to the patient and by the public health need of making the highly promising new weapons of treatment available to every person who is infected."

Apart from the question of eponyms, an editorial associate of Dr. Fishbein had this to say, "There are certain other considerations involved in the naming of this disease. If the name is loathsome then the disease becomes no less loathsome by covering it up by using a name which fewer people understand. Indeed, it would seem from experience with syphilis that more can be done by publicity under the right name than by concealing both the name and the disease from the public eye."

We feel that replacing the word leprosy with Hansen's disease, Hansenosis or some other scientifically descriptive term is not an attempt to cover it up by using a name which fewer people understand. That word leprosy conveys to the public mind anything but the scientific facts of the disease. Folklore, tradition, and superstition are so inseparably connected with the word that no amount of publicity would correct it. Another name, with a proper educational campaign, would seem to be a much saner approach to the problem, and would be a justifiable method of placing victims of this disease on the same status as others who are ill. Continued use of the word leprosy and leper, with all their implications, which the disease itself does not deserve, precludes this objective.

Dr. Fishbein has told us that, "Under the manuscript editing rules of the A.M.A., the term 'leper' cannot be used in any of the American Medical Association publications." While thus disapproving of the word 'leper', the A.M.A. approves the use

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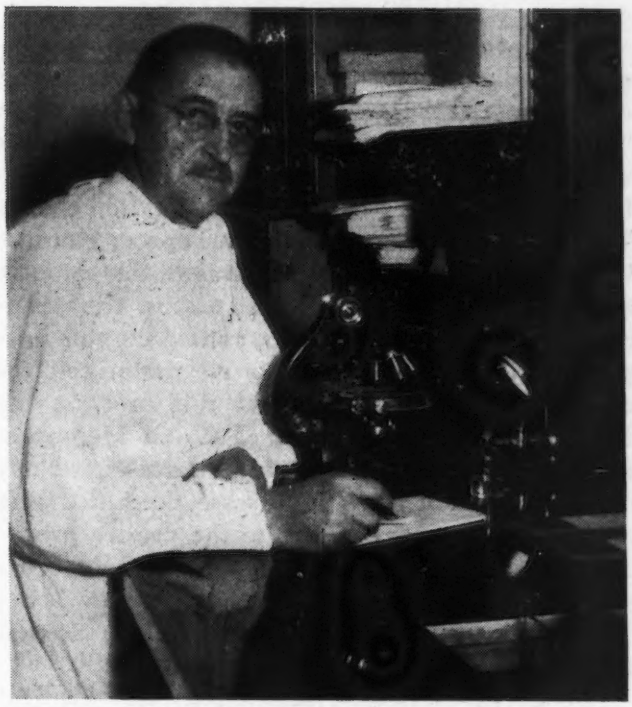
MEDICAL CALLER



Dr. H. Windsor Wade, Medical Director of the Leonard Wood Memorial, editor of the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY, and one of the world's foremost authorities on Hansen's disease, must have felt right at home in our hospital laboratory, where he is pictured above, during his visit here in October.

Immediately following the meeting of the Medical Advisory Board of the Leonard Wood Memorial in New York City on November 11, Dr. Wade will leave for the Philippines to resume the humanitarian and scientific work which he began at Culion, the world's largest leprosarium, almost 30 years ago. Dr. Wade, with Mrs. Wade by his side, was interned for the duration, with his patients, at Culion. His "Highlights of Wartime Culion" was published in THE STAR in October 1946.

Dr. and Mrs. Wade returned to the States in July of this year. Their health had suffered because of privation and starvation. Mrs. Wade, who won a place in the Philippines Hall of Fame, is recuperating at her mother's home in New Orleans. Dr. Wade's health has improved considerably since his visit to this hospital in August. Meanwhile he has been in London conferring with British leprologists and has visited several of the large pharmaceutical houses in the U.S. because of his interest in the new drugs.

During Dr. Wade's October visit we had the opportunity and privilege of several stimulating talks with this distinguished man of science whose progressive ideas are an inspiration to all who come in contact with him.

In the current INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY, Dr. Ernest Muir, noted British leprologist, says, "In the medical profession there has been a prejudice against leprosy, either on account of fear or because it was considered that so little could be done for it. But the best work has always been done by those who have felt they have a vocation, and many such doctors and other workers, once they have overcome the prejudices which surround the subject of leprosy, have become enthralled by the interest of the work."

Dr. Wade has indeed become "enthralled" with his work and both patients and the profession are fortunate in having Dr. H. Windsor Wade as a leader in this field.

Vacationing in the U.S. for three weeks, Dr. Francisco Tiant, Assistant Professor of Dermatology, University of Havana, was in Carville on October 21. Dr. Tiant worked for four years at the Rincon Leprosarium near Havana.

Dr. Johansen met Dr. Tiant at the Pan-American Leprosy Congress in Brazil in December 1946. It was there that the International Leprosy Congress accepted the invitation of the Government of Cuba to hold its meeting in Havana in April, 1948. Dr. Tiant is a member of the executive committee now busy organizing the congress. Dr. Tiant promised to have his office send THE STAR news notes on the forthcoming Congress.

Dr. Jose Correade Carvalho of the Bauru Leprosarium, Sao Paulo, Brazil, was another medico vacationing in the U.S. who stopped by this hospital on a busman's holiday. Dr. Carvalho spoke interestingly of Bauru where he has been a member of the staff for 16 years. There are 10,400 patients in Bauru, one of the five leprosaria in the State of Sao Paulo, which have a total patient population of 55,000.

"We still use chaulmoogra oil in Brazil," said Dr. Carvalho, "but our government has appropriated $500,000 for the new drugs. In Bauru we have 800 patients taking promin and 600 taking diasone. Some patients are taking both promin or diasone and chaulmoogra oil," Dr. Carvalho believes the more intensive the treatment the better the results.

Dr. Rolla E. Hoffman of Wooster, Ohio, who has been a Presbyterian medical missionary in

Meshed, Iran, for the past 30 years, now on furlough in the U. S., spent a week here observing the new treatments. Dr. Hoffman said that the leprosarium where he works is located about two miles from the city of Meshed. The land and equipment is provided by the Mohammedan Mosque, but the hospital is staffed by Christian doctors under the American Mission. "We have about 100 patients at Meshed but there are about 1,000 cases of Hansen's disease in Iran and several hospitals treating this disease," Dr. Hoffman said. "Chaulmoogra oil is still our standby because there is no other drug available," he added. Dr. Hoffman told that some people try to fake the disease in order to get into the hospital. One healthy woman has had three husbands, all patients, the last one still living; she has not developed the disease. "Our missionary hospital at Meshed has been in operation for about 25 years," Dr. Hoffman said, "and no case has ever developed among the personnel; but in one tuberculosis hospital not far away, several of the nurses have become patients."

Dr. H. E. Moffett of Berkeley, California, born of Presbyterian missionary parents in Korea, is following in their footsteps. He was here for two weeks in October before leaving in November for Shanghai. He plans to work in a leprosarium in Central China.

AS I SEE IT

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Centers should be established for ambulatory therapy. The one almost insurmountable obstacle to this is the limitations imposed by state laws."

What Dr. Combes has to say about abolition of the leprosarium is quite appropriate, for as it is now, it stands as a monument to backwardness and adherence to ancient taboos and primitive thought.

We also have the support of other of the country's best leprologists, several of whom have been advocating a change in the name of the disease. By tracing back to its origin the several translations of the word "Leper" and "Leprosy" it will be found that the Hebrew word "Zaraath" does not describe what is known today to be leprosy. The Ancients were not infallible and certainly translators quite often make mistakes. They wouldn't be human if they didn't. It would not take one iota from the beauty of what the Bible teaches us to make the change; on the contrary, it would enhance its meaning if it were accurate.

When you finish reading THE STAR will you please help us by passing it on to one of your friends.

IMPORTANT MEETING

On November 11, 1924, Dr. F.A. Johansen began his duty at this hospital. That was in the chaulmoogra oil era when patients had little hope. Twenty-three years later, to the day, Dr. Johansen was in New York where he flew to attend a meeting of the Medical Advisory Board of the Leonard Wood Memorial (The American Leprosy Foundation). The board met with a group of the nation's outstanding chemotherapists to discuss the chemotherapy of Hansen's disease, started in this hospital in 1941, and which has revolutionized the treatment of the disease. At this meeting the Medical Board of the Leonard Wood Memorial, the only international organization dealing strictly in the research of Hansen's disease, consulted with the chemotherapy experts as to the proper procedure for setting up a program to evaluate the comparative merits of the present drugs now being used in the treatment of Hansen's disease, as well as the drugs which may become available.

The chemotherapists, selected by the Medical Division of the National Research Council to attend the one day session at Hotel Pennsylvania, were Dr. Wesley W. Spink, Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Minnesota Hospitals; Capt. E.G. Hakansson, Medical Research Institute, Bethesda, Md.; Dr. John S. Lockwood, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York; Dr. Louis Weed, Director, Division of Medical Science, National Research Council; Dr. Francis Blake, Yale School of Medicine; Dr. Arnold Welch, Professor of Pharmacology, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio; Dr. H.B. Van Dyke, Professor of Pharmacology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York; Dr. M.I. Smith, U.S. Public Health Service; Prof. Eli S. Marshall, Jr., Dept. of Pharmacology, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore; and Col. Tom Whayne, Director, Dept. of Preventive Medicine, Office of the U.S. Army, Washington, D.C.

Perry Burgess, president of the L.W.M., presided at the meeting and the members of the Medical Board in attendance were Dr. Malcom H. Soule, Chairman, Hygienic Laboratory, University of Michigan; Dr. Howard T. Karsner, Secretary, Institute of Phathology, Western Reserve; Dr. Esmond R. Long, Henry Phipps Institute, Philadelphia; General James S. Simmins, Director, School of Public Health; Dr H.W. Wade, Medical Director, Leonard Wood Memorial; Dr. Chester S. Keefer, Robert Dawson Evans Memorial, Bos-

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TRAVELERS ALL

From Luis Moreno, our correspondent at Sanatorio Nacional, El Cristo, Oriente, Cuba, we got the news that Dr. George L. Fite, Carville pathologist, had been in Cuba in October. Luis served as interpreter for Dr. Fite when he addressed the patients. We understand that Dr. Fite's trip to Cuba was in connection with a recent scientific development concerning a new technique for better diagnosis of Hansen's disease, reported by Dr. Reuben L. Kahn of the University of Michigan, to the Society of American Bacteriologists last May. Dr. Fite declined to comment on his mission but he said that he had also visited Cuba's other leprosarium, Rincon, near Havana. He said in Cuba's population of 4 millions there are 3,000 cases of Hansen's disease.

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Dr. E.R. Kellersberger left October 22 from New York for a five months' tour of the Far East. He will visit leprosaria in Hawaii, Philippines, China, Siam, Burma and India.

Word comes from Hawaii that Dr. Kellersberger was at Kalaupapa, Molokai, over the weekend of October 25 where, according to our correpondent, in speaking to a patients' assembly he said, "Leprosy should not be called Hansen's disease because after all leprosy is the name of the disease, although I'm strongly against anyone with leprosy being called a "leper".

★

The National Conference of Catholic Charities brought Sister Catherine Sullivan to New Orleans. It was natural, being so close to this hospital, where she was on duty for 21 years, that Sister Catherine should come to see us for a few hours. Having recently returned from Europe, Sister had many interesting stories to relate. Always deeply concerned with the problems of those having Hansen's disease, Sister visited the patients at St. Louis Hospital in Paris. A report of this visit and also a special Christmas message by Sister Catherine will appear in our December STAR.

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Sister Teresa Kelly, Chief Nurse of this hospital, attended the annual convention of the American Hospital Association meeting in St. Louis in September.

Sister Mary Teresa, our hospital dietitian, was in Philadelphia for the convention of the National American Dietetic Association on October 13-17 and Sister Georgiana of our nursing staff was

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PATIENTS AND POLITICS

Carville has long served as a convenient football for the politicians of this state and the nation but the patients who have had their presents and futures bandied about for such a long time have in the last few weeks found themselves in a most enviable position. As newly certified voters they are now able to make a choice, if not of the bandiers, at least of those who will be making the laws. To date we have had candidates for both parish and state offices. One of the most frequent credentials offered is services in the armed forces. This could be a fine talking point except that it is a privilege that all of the candidates seem to have possessed. Of the gubernatorial candidates Sam Jones, an old friend of Carville, and his party were the first to appear in our theatre. The local voters seem quite enthusiastic over the resumption of their right to vote and you can frequently overhear some rather heated arguments being waged over the relative merits of the candidates.

ARMISTICE DAY

Armistice Day the skies opened and floods descended postponing the planned play-off of the American Legion Golf Tournament.

On that evening a gala crowd moved in on the patriotically bedecked ballroom for a jam session. Ned Betts, 13 piece orchestra of Baton Rouge, gave forth with hot jive. This grand band of young musicians was furnished by the American Federation of Musicians through the courtesy of Local 583 of Baton Rouge.

The patients now eagerly anticipate another dance on December 12 with music through the courtesy of the same Musicians' Local. Thanks, fellows, for giving us these wonderful dances.

IMPORTANT MEETING

continued from page 6

ton; Dr. William H. Feldman, The Mayo Foundation, Rochester, Minn.; Dr. James A. Doull, Office of the Surgeon General; Dr. F.A. Johansen, M.O.C., U.S. Marine Hospital, Carville, La. and Dr. L.F. Badger who represented Surgeon General Parran, U.S. Public Health Service.

among the 300 nurses from every part of the state attending the 42nd annual meeting of the Louisiana State Nurse's Association held in Shreveport, Louisiana, November 10-13.

Place THE STAR in your public library

MAN OF ACTION

"We should make plans to be represented at all national health conventions. We missed many opportunities along this line this year." This is what Col. G. H Rarey, USA, Retired, had to say after he attended the annual convention of the American Public Health Association in Atlantic City, October 6 to 10, where he read his paper, "Research and Educational Objectives in Combating Leprosy", before the Health Section of the APHA. His paper, which will be published in the December STAR, was well received and was given favorable comment by SCIENCE SERVICE, the NEW YORK TIMES and leading newspapers.

Col. Rarey had a booth on the convention floor where he distributed educational material. Many of the 3100 delegates stopped by this booth and Col. Rarey says, "I talked to many doctors and nurses about the leprosy situation in the U.S.. In every case, the more the doctor, nurse, or other individual knew about this disease, the more they approved of our program."

This splendid educational effort was done by Col. Rarey at his own expense.

Col. Rarey is contacting the Governors of the various states and he has sent a copy of his paper to all State Health Departments. He is currently compiling the differing regulations of each state concerning Hansen's disease for a comparative chart.

Without a doubt, Col. Rarey, National Vice-President of the American Federation of the Physically Handicapped and author of the "National Leprosy Educational and Treatment Act" planned for congressional action, is the most active man in the United States today in behalf of American citizens who have contracted, and who in the future will contract, Hansen's disease, devoting almost his full time to the problem.

This retired army officer, who first became interested in leprosy during his service in the Philippines, does not concur in traditional hush-hush, line-of-least-resistance methods in regard to patients with Hansen's disease. He believes in bringing the problem out in the open and is seizing every opportunity to do just that, much to the annoyance of high public health officials but they probably admire his determination. We, the patients, are deeply grateful to Col. Rarey and if we had a few more like him, a saner attitude would result and hasten the eradication of the disease in the U.S.

Subscriber to THE STAR

Honeymooners do not usually include Carville on such a trip but Mr and Mrs. Arthur Borden of Beekman place. New York. did. They are shown above in THE STAR office when they spent the afternoon of Sept. 30 at this hospital. The Bordens were enroute to Mexico via New Orleans and came over here for Mrs. Borden a free-lance writer, known in literary circles as Donita Ferguson, to gather material for a story on this hospital she is doing for CORONET. Formerly assistant editor of art, music and drama for NEWSWEEK, Miss Ferguson also has a scientific bent. She has long been interested in writing medical articles from a layman's viewpoint. Miss Ferguson met our Dr. Erickson at the recent A.M A. convention in Atlantic City and that is when she definitely decided that she must write an article about Hansen's disease to disprove the unwarranted stigma attached to persons with the disease.

The six-foot-six Arthur Borden, once captain of Princeton's polo team and during the war executive officer to Brig. Gen. Erik Nelson, was just as much interested in everything he heard and saw here as his attractive carreerist wife. We are confident that Miss Ferguson's piece on Carville in CORONET will be a good one.

"The Ghost and The Bell" the National American Legion Auxiliary's splendid radio contribution to our wider educational campaign on Hansen's disease (NBC Aug. 25) was broadcast by transcription over KGU, Honolulu, T.H. on Oct. 10 and so enthusiastic was the response to this program that the station repeated it on Oct. 24. The patients at Kalihi and Kalaupapa, Molokai have voiced their appreciation to the Auxiliary in letters to THE STAR.

EDITORIAL

continued from page 4

of the word "leprosy". Past experience has shown that the use of the word "leper" to denote the person having the disease, naturally follows the word "leprosy" when the disease is mentioned.

The important point is that the word "leprosy" is unscientific when applied to designate the condition caused by Hansen's bacillus. Many leprologists have acknowledged this to be a fact and we could give many quotations from their published statements. Briefly we quote from the 1944 edition of "An Introduction to Dermatology" by Dr. E.H. Molesworth, Sydney, Australia: "The disease mentioned as leprosy in the account given in Leviticus is not described as possessing any of the characteristic signs and symptoms of the disease as we know it. The outstanding sign of leprosy, anaesthesia, is nowhere mentioned in Biblical accounts. The fact that the Bible can be quoted in justification for severe measures instituted in certain countries for the control of leprosy is one of the more important influences operating against the proper management of the problem along modern lines. No one can understand the weight of opposition inspired by this supposed Biblical authority unless he has tried to bring about some relaxation of the regulations in order to permit a more humane treatment of the sufferers of this disease."

The late Dr. G.H. Faget, pioneer sulfone therapist, was much interested in a new nomenclature and discussed the subject several times in THE STAR and in the public press. No review of past efforts would be complete without including his statement: "The word 'leper' has unfortunately been given two meanings – the one, a person suffering from leprosy, and the other a morally unclean or depraved person. Formerly, tuberculosis was frequently called consumption and its victims were referred to as 'lunger' or 'consumptives'. They objected to these names, and gradually, through the education of the public, these words passed into disuse. For the same reason the sooner the 'leper' becomes obsolete, the better. Since this is the only germ which forms itself into 'globi' in the body, 'globiosis' suggests itself as a good scientific name. It is a more descriptive or accurate term than leprosy. An added advantage would be the approval of all sufferers from the disease. No longer could they be referred to as 'lepers' which is an undeserved insult. It must feel like a slap in the face every time they are called by that name. Tuberculosis and leprosy have always been considered closely allied diseases by the medical profession. Their relationship would be further evidenced by this change in nomenclature. Just as tuberculosis is the disease characterized by formation of 'tubercles' in the body so globiosis is the disease characterized by the formation of 'globi' in the body."

If the medical world will accept globiosis and publicize it as the correct term for so-called leprosy, then we believe the patients and the public would also accept it, and the term leprosy, like consumption, would in time become obsolete. However, Hansen's disease has the advantage of being in use now by many medical men, and Hansenosis (more technical and not as clumsy) could be adopted very easily. We prefer Hansenosis.

In 1931, a most important international conference on leprosy was held under the auspices of the Leonard Wood Memorial in Manila, Philippines. As a result of this conference the present International Leprosy Association was formed. From a memorandum by Dr. R.C. Cochrane eminent British leprologist and secretary of this conference, we quote: "A matter of some importance was the decision to endeavor to eliminate the word 'leper' in writings and conversations regarding the disease. As the word 'leper' carries with it a definite social stigma, it should, as far as possible, be avoided and 'cases of leprosy' or 'sufferers of leprosy' be substituted."

Perry Burgess, author of WHO WALK ALONE, has said, "The disease and its victims are cursed by being labeled with a name which has come to mean that which the nature of the illness does not in any sense justify. To combat this attitude one of the most effective means would be to change the name."

The International Congress of Leprosy will meet in Havana, Cuba, in April 1948. The problem will be discussed under five headings, including sociology. At the congress Mr. Burgess, a recognized leader in the social aspects of the problem, and others from all parts of the world, will have ample opportunity to take definite action in correcting a traditional acceptance of a name which perpetuates the unwarranted social stigma clinging to a disease. We do not know if a discussion of nomenclature is even on the agenda, but we would like to see papers presented to the Congress by Mr. Burgess and Dr. Lichtwardt.

S.S.

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CHRISTMAS PARTY PLANS

It may seem a bit on the early side to be talking about jingle bells, holly wreaths and the appearance of Santa Claus but plans for THE STAR's second annual Community Christmas tree are taking shape and as there is to be such a large guest list. 398 patients, it really isn't early.

When Mrs. L.L. "Steve" McCormick, liaison representative of THE STAR, visited us recently we jumped at the opportunity to ask her to assume the general chairmanship. As always Steve said, "Sure" and pitched right in. Don't know at this writing who'll fill the Santa Claus suit but it will be done and we do know that the Navy Mother s Club of Baton Rouge are going to furnish the oversized Christmas tree.

To Carvillians the "eats" are as important as the gifts. With this in mind we went into a huddle with B.L. Spann and Frank Nesom of Baton Rouge when they were here during October. We've placed our order, through them, for a repeat on last year's heart warming egg-nog plus other Christmas goodies. Steve has already arranged for the American Legion Auxiliary Units to furnish homemade cookies and candy and is busy purchasing entrance prizes.

We've been hearing right along from Lorraine Greinke of the Edgewater, Sunnyside Exchange, Illinois Bell Telephone Co. of Chicago and she's been working overtime on Carville plans. On August 26 in the beautiful Victorian Room of Palmer House, Lorraine dined with Mae Fitzgerald, Shirley Mockus and Mildred Newman of the Campbell Soup Co. Besides a wonderful dinner there were 3 solid hours of talk – all Carville – and these gals decided to introduce Carville to their office. The first step was a chest marked "Carville Fund" placed on one of their desks. Everyone has been dropping in change and in two months the girls have forwarded $50 toward our refreshments for the big party. They are also selling Christmas cards and the profits will be used to purchase gifts for the patients. The Edgewater, Sunnyside Telephone girls and the Campbell Soup girls are joining forces to see that every patient here is remembered this year. In between times Mae has been securing subscriptions to THE STAR and sending them along. Cheers for all of you and your efforts.

Lorraine was interviewed recently over radio station WBBM Chicago on WOMEN IN THE NEWS regarding her Carville visit last Spring. She did a bang up job of spreading some facts – God bless her. She has been assigned a new position in the Traffic Engineering Department of Illinois Bell Telephone Co. and has turned over her correspondence duties, which she has handled for 18 months, to Grace Ehrenborgh but not the Christmas party. Lorraine is supervising the purchase, wrapping and mailing of all the gifts despite doctor's orders to slow down.

Oh, yes, there will be entertainment on the big evening, too, but we'll tell you more of that next time when we send Christmas greetings your way.

continued on the bottom of next column

ENTERTAINMENT

Mr. Charles Ramsden, perfecter of the Electrosonic Novatar, came as an unexpected surprise to the early movie goers on November 1. A world traveler, Mr. Ramsden is accomplished at performing the music of the many lands he visited. The unusual effects he is able to create on his instrument make it possible for him to bring the very spirit of his travels to the audience.

★

The annual dinner held at the close of the softball season for the players and officials was a big success this year. Over the excellent fried chicken the boys were able to loosen up their imagination in planning for next year. Chief topic of discussion was the new lighting plan for the diamond. The government has authorized the erection of a Class A lighting system and the engineer, who visited and talked with the boys, has assured them that the work will be completed by early spring.

★

The Forty and Eight of Baton Rouge with Mike Acosta at the helm gathered up their entertainers on Oct. 21 and headed for Carville to put on one of their best shows to date. Justin, that's his "before" name, Wilson, that's his "behind" name, whom we remembered for his Cajun dialect stories, returned as MC on this occasion and delighted the audience by filling in between acts with impromptu dances and quips. Much of the credit for these visits from the "Saturday Nighters" is due Doris Force and Jerry Mertes past presidents, and Muriel Hess, the present president and Billie Day, chairman of the group.

Newest addition to the troupe is the "Chansonettes", a girls' choral group. The variety of acts included a Marimba solo by Louis Melancon, a violin solo, several dance numbers by members of Joe Philips School of Dance and a "blues" singer. The final act was Pike Burden, magician extraordinaire, who kept the audience bewildered with his "now you see it, now you don't" sleight of hand.

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GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In the days before juke boxes Louisiana Cajuns called their weekly dances fais do-do (go to sleep). Today they are called jive sessions and there is no danger of one being overcome with drowsiness. We are kept well supplied with records for our juke box through the generosity of several groups. The Order of Rainbow Girls of Cristobal, Canal Zone sent $25 to begin our record fund. From this some children's albums are being purchased (for use in the local school) as well as dance records. Mrs. James Casserly, New Orleans, President, 1st District, American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Louisiana secures 4 records a month; the Nicholson Unit 38 of the Auxiliary in Baton Rouge has sent several albums, National Headquarters of the Legion in Indianapolis send records at intervals and Alpha Mu Chapter, Beta Sigma Phi of Shreveport, La. have contributed $10 toward the fund. There are all types of records from concert to jive but still the most popular with our French population is Jolie Blonde.

Elmer Neudorf, C.M. of St. Mary's Seminary, Perryville, Mo. appealed to his fellow students for help on our new printing press. He secured and sent to us $18 to add to the fund.

District B'Nai Brith through Rabbi Emil Leipziger of New Orleans sent us a $25 check for equipment.

The Wiley-Pevy Unit 74 American Legion Auxiliary of Minden, Louisiana is now sponsoring one of our reading projects for the blind patients.

The Units of the 7th District, Department of Louisiana, are to provide the salary for our ladies' mending service. The first check has been received from the W. B. Williamson Unit 1 of Lake Charles Louisiana.

Mrs. Ilene J. Cox, President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Colorado has relayed to us a $100 check for equipment and the Cumberland Unit 3 of Fayetteville, North Carolina sent $25.

Miss Dorothea Daniels, R.N. of Oakland, California was introduced to our work about one year ago by another nurse friend of THE STAR. As a result of what was learned from our paper she writes, "One patient came to our clinic with Hansen's disease and he was treated as all other patients and later went to Carville confident of recovery". With this news she sent a cash gift.

As a result of the broadcast THE GHOST AND THE BELL Eugene Dunlap of St. Louis, Mrs. E.R. Sledge, Castor, La., Mrs. M.J. Mitchell, Grand

Continued on the bottom of next column

THANKSGIVING

Mentally reviewing the years of my residence in Carville brings me to a definite conclusion. This Thanksgiving, 1947, I, along with my fellow patients have much to be thankful for. Patients here no longer feel that sulfa therapy is an experiment. Since 1941 we have witnessed the miracles it has performed and I, personally, have experienced its benefits. In 1943 when I took my first promin shot I knew blindness was impending for me. With great faith and a prayer in my heart I entered on the great experiment. Today something over 4 years later I wear glasses but hold down a full secretarial job which includes many additional hours of close scrutinizing work. I also maintain a home and care for a family but best of all feel wonderful. Why shouldn't I thank the Giver of all good and perfect gifts?.

During the same year the surface of public opinion has been showered with the truth about Hansen's disease and, God willing some day a flood of knowledge will wash away the superstitious maze of cobwebs which has enmeshed it these thousands of years and the revealed light will make us free people.

Patients' vacations have been extended to one month periods twice a year and other concessions are still hoped for.

In the midst of our gratefulness we have one cloud on the distant horizon. We correspond with patients in other countries who are recuperating under sulfa therapy and rejoice for them, but how distressed we are over letters from other patients who receive only chaulmoogra oil. Starvation in foreign countries is a serious problem but is being brought to the attention of the masses. The progress of Hansen's disease in patients unable to receive promin, diasone or promizole is nearer home to us and just as heartbreaking. Great will be our thankfulness when patients everywhere regardless of financial status, race, color or creed begin receiving the best treatment medical science can provide and find themselves, as we, embarking on the road to health. A.P.

Rapids, Mich., John T. English, Niagara Falls, N.Y., Mrs. Cora Rasco, Memphis, Texas and Lloyd Wechtel, Maumee, Ohio each sent contributions toward our equipment needs.

With so many folks from so many places all pulling together to keep THE STAR operating we are bound to make the grade. All this help plus much more is needed for everything in our printing plant which is wearing out very rapidly causing monthly delays in issuing our paper.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACTS OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AND MARCH 3, 1933

Of THE STAR, published monthly at U. S. Marine Hospital, Carville, Louisiana, for October 1, 1947.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
COUNTY OF IBERVILLE PARISH } ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Ann Page, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that she is the Managing Editor of THE STAR, and that the following is, to the best of her knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Act of March 3, 1933, embodied in section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse side of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher—A group of patients, U. S. Marine Hospital, Carville, La.; Editor—Stanley Stein, U. S. Marine Hospital, Carville, La.; Managing Editor—Ann Page, U. S. Marine Hospital, Carville, La.; Business Manager—Frank Mantell, U. S. Marine Hospital, Carville, La.

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.) A group of patients working on it as occupational therapy on a non-profit basis, headed by Stanley Stein, Editor, and Ann Page, Managing Editor, and Frank Mantell, Business Manager.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

5. That the average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the twelve months preceding the date shown above is ..... . (This information is required from daily publications only.)

(Signature of business manager)
ANN PAGE

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 23rd day of September, 1947.

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POL. ADV.

Elsie McCormick's THEY LIVE AGAIN (Collier's June 7) one of the best articles of the year on Hansenosis, was reprinted in EVERYBODY'S DIGEST for November and in ZIEGLER, the magazine done in Braille for deaf blind.

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The November STAR is late because of delay in receiving our shipment of paper plus the usual break-downs of press room equipment. Please bear with us folks.

When you finish reading THE STAR will you please help us by passing it on to one of your friends.

FURTHER FACTS

Despite the fact that among the many leprosaria scattered throughout the world thousands of well workers, religious and lay have been in daily association with the patients, the incidence of infection is very small. In some of these cases reasonable doubt existed as to whether the individual acquired the infection in the leprosarium. This is especially true when the infected person is a native of a section of the country where the disease occurs frequently or when the disease is known to have existed in the family. During its 52 years of existence, hundreds of persons from neighboring communities have been employed at the Carville Leprosarium as plumbers, painters, cafeteria help, clerical workers, laboratory technicians etc., with but one possible exception (a native of this endemic section) not a single member of the personnel has contracted the disease. This is a remarkable record, considering that this hospital is located almost within the heart of the most endemic section of the most endemic state in the Union and one would expect more cases to develop by sheer coincidence. What tuberculosis sanatorium can point to such a record.

In the much publicized case of Father Damien his biographers assert that "The good father never took any precautions against infection but lived continuously under unhygienic conditions." His successor, Brother Joseph Dutton, worked in daily intimate contact with patients for over 40 years without contracting the disease.

* * * *

In 1874 G. Armauer Hansen, a Norwegian physician, announced his discovery of the germ which causes the disease. In appearance and size it closely resembles the germ which causes tuberculosis, the tubercle bacillus. In single organisms it is impossible for the "Laboratory" to distinguish between the two germs.

* * * *

Hansen's is not included in the list of quarantinable diseases in New York State and patients in that State are subject to no restrictions (1 down, 47 to go).

* * * *

A man or woman may remain in perfect physical health for years after contracting Hansen's disease. Half the patients now at Carville could sit unnoted in any social gathering.

* * * *

* * * *

The condition which should be officially known as Hansen's disease or by some other scientifically accurate and descriptive name is called "leprosy" because of an erroneous translation of the Bible. The Greek word "lepra" had been used in the writings attributed to Hippocrates to refer to a vague group of scaly conditions of the skin regarded as having no serious importance. The translators of the Hebrew Testament into Alexandrian Greek (the Septuagint) at about 100 B.C. used the word lepra in their effort to find a Greek equivalent for "Zaraath." The writers of the New Testament followed the example of the Greek Septuagint. The confusion between the Biblical and modern use of the word "leprosy" is a cause of suffering to thousands of people throughout the world.

Even a superficial reading of the thirteenth chapter of Leviticus is sufficient to convince any physician that the six or seven conditions which are defined under the Hebrew word "Zaraath" had nothing in common with what is called "leprosy" today. The repeated expression throughout the Old Testament, leprous as snow, may be applied to vitiligo or to psoriasis but could never by any acrobatics of the imagination be applied to infection with Hansen's bacillus.

The most characteristic features of infection with Hansen's bacillus (such as nerve involvement with loss of sensation in the extremities) are nowhere mentioned. The description of leprosy of garments and leprosy of houses should be conclusive proof that "Zaraath" is not the name of a disease and certainly not of the disease that we call leprosy.

The clue to the significance of this condition among the ancient Hebrews is to be found in the numerous cases in which leprosy is described as being an affliction which is the result of Divine displeasure (as in the case of Miriam) or as being a sign of Divine power (as in the case of Moses) or of being miraculously cured by bathing in the Jordan (as in the case of Naaman).

The word leprosy quite obviously was applied not to a disease of the skin but to a mark or blemish which rendered the person ritualistically unclean.

One important feature of leprosy as described in the New Testament confirms the view that it was thought of essentially as a mark of taboo. Other diseases in the New Testament are described as being "healed" or "cured." Leprosy, however, is described as being "cleansed."

When this simple, and we believe, true explanation of Biblical leprosy is understood and accepted, a great step will be taken toward the elimination of the irrational leprophobia of today.

Dr. B. C. Lendrum, Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of Illinois, College of Medicine, Chicago; Dr. Everest L. McEwen, Rush Medical College, Chicago; The Jewish Encyclopedia, Vol. VIII; and other authoritative sources.

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Published monthly by patients of the United States Marine Hospital, National Leprosarium, Carville, Louisiana.
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2- Furnish occupational therapy for interested patients.
3- Encourage and finance social service for needy patients.
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